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OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE: DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS AND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

F. Implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action (paras. 158-162)

(Section IV (Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation) of the draft Habitat agenda)

Text submitted by Working Group II on the basis of negotiations held on document A/CONF.165/PC.3/4

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F. Implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action

1. Introduction

[158. The long-term impact of the commitments made by Governments and the international community at Habitat II will depend on the implementation of actions agreed upon at all levels, including the local, national and international levels. Also, national plans of action and/or other relevant national programmes and actions on sustainable human settlements development and shelter provision will need to be developed or strengthened, where appropriate, and their implementation will need to be monitored and evaluated by Governments and their partners in sustainable development at the national level. Similarly progress in implementing the Global Plan of Action needs to be assessed with a view to encouraging and enabling all stakeholders to improve their performance and strengthen international cooperation.

2. Implementation at the national level

[158 bis. Governments have the primary responsibility of implementing the Global Plan of Action. Governments as central partners will create and strengthen effective partnerships with families, communities, local authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, elderly, vulnerable groups, and indigenous people in each country. National mechanisms should be installed or improved, as appropriate, to coordinate actions at all relevant government levels that have an impact on human settlements and to assess this impact prior to governmental actions. Local authorities should be supported in their approach to implement this Global Plan of Action inasmuch as local action is required. All appropriate participatory mechanisms, including Local Agenda 21's, should be developed and employed.

3. Implementation at the international level

[159. The effective implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) should take into account the integration of sustainable human settlements development with broader environmental, social and economic considerations. The main actors at the global level for the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda will continue to be States Members of the United Nations, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and all other specialized agencies of programmes in the United Nations system engaged in activities pertaining to the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world.

4. Tracking progress on the Global Plan of Action

[160. Members of the United Nations shall exert concerted efforts to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through bilateral, subregional, regional, and international mechanisms for cooperation, as well as through the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

[161. The General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental body, is the principal policy-making and appraisal organ on matters relating to the follow-up of Habitat II. At the special session of the General Assembly to be convened for 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, due attention should be given to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development. Also, the Assembly should include the follow-up to the Conference in its agenda as an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)". At its fifty-first session, it should review the outcome of the Conference as well as the steps required to implement the Habitat Agenda.

[162. The General Assembly should hold a special session in the year 2006 for an overall mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and should consider further actions and initiatives.

[163. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its role under the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Council, would oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and make recommendations in this regard. The Council should be invited to review at its substantive session in 1997 the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. As the coordinating body, the Council should be invited to review in 1997 the role and functioning of the Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the need for synergy and effective coordination with other related commissions and conference follow-up, and with a view to ensure a clear division of labour and coordination of multi-year programmes of work. In addition, it should consider dedicating one high-level segment of its substantive session before the year 2001 to human settlements and to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action with the active involvement and participation, inter alia, of the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

[164. The Council may convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation.

[165. The Council, in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations vis-à-vis the General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions, would facilitate system-wide coordination in the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and make recommendations in this regard. It should look at ways to strengthen, consistent with the mandates of the Charter of the United Nations and the role and authority, structures, resources and processes of the Council itself, for bringing economic and social development agencies into a closer working relationship with it so that it can review progress made towards implementing the outcome of Habitat II.

[166. The General Assembly and the Council should promote subregional and regional cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In this regard, the regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, should convene meetings at the highest political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of Habitat II, to exchange views on their respective experiences, particularly in the best practices, and to adopt appropriate measures. The regional commissions should report to the Council on the outcome of such meetings.

[167. As a standing committee assisting the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Settlements should have an important role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

[168. The mandate of the Commission will be strengthened and expanded to incorporate and implement the Habitat Agenda. Similarly the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will be strengthened and revitalized in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with a view to enabling it to implement effectively the expanded mandate contained in the Habitat Agenda under the overall policy direction of the Commission on Human Settlements. The Centre should be evolved into a highly competent technical secretariat capable of implementing the Habitat Agenda. For the purpose, the Centre will be restructured and strengthened to deal effectively with the Habitat Agenda.

[169. The Commission on Human Settlements, under the Economic and Social Council, will have the following main objectives:

[(a) To promote integrated and cohesive policies aimed at achieving the goals of the provision of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in all countries in accordance with the Habitat Agenda;

[(b) To track the progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and activities related to shelter provision and sustainable human settlements development, including the relevant commitments contained in Agenda 21;

[(c) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve shelter and human settlements problems;

[(d) To receive and analyse relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations in the context of the overall implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

[(e) To promote greater international cooperation in order to increase the availability of resources to developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries;

[(f) To provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on the basis of an analysis and synthesis of the information received and to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development;

[(g) To facilitate cooperation and partnerships in this domain among all countries and regions.

[170. The Commission on Human Settlements will have the following main functions and responsibilities:

[(a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the fields of adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements, as contained in the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and endorsed by the General Assembly;

[(b) To lead the United Nations system and to cooperate with other international organizations in the field of adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the overall policy objectives and goals in these fields within the United Nations system might be best achieved;

[(c) To ensure that adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development are implemented in harmony with the recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21, and the declarations and plans of action relating to shelter and human settlements adopted by the World Summit on Children, the World Conference on Human Rights, the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women;

[(d) To promote the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Habitat Agenda that pertain to national actions recommended by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

[(e) To study in the context of the Habitat Agenda new issues and problems with a view to evolving solutions for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;

[(f) To continue to give overall policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

[(g) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out shelter and human settlements development activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;

[(h) To monitor and evaluate the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda and recommend appropriate measures at the mid-term review to be undertaken by the year 2006 alternative actions as deemed necessary to enhance the dynamic nature of the Agenda;

[(i) To evaluate, at the mid-term review, through an international meeting or conference, the effective contribution of the private sector in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

[171. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), located in Nairobi, shall continue to service the Commission on Human Settlements and serve as the focal point for actions and coordination of activities related to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements action within the United Nations system. The Centre shall be headed by an Executive Director, at a level of the Under-Secretary-General, who shall report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Centre shall be entrusted, inter alia, with the following responsibilities:

[(a) To ensure the harmonization of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system;

[(b) To assist the Commission on Human Settlements in formulating recommendations for coordinating adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements development activities in the United Nations system, to keep them under review and to assess their effectiveness;

[(c) To execute adequate shelter and human settlements development programmes and projects;

[(d) To serve as the focal point for a global exchange of information about adequate shelter for all and human settlements development;

[(e) To provide substantive support to the Commission on Human Settlements;

[(f) To deal with interregional issues relating to adequate shelter for all and human settlements development;

[(g) To supplement the resources of the regions in formulating and implementing adequate shelter for all and human settlements development programmes and projects when so required;

[(h) To promote and consolidate collaboration with all partners, including private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the Habitat Agenda for adequate shelter and human settlements development;

[(i) To maintain and update a global directory of consultants and advisers to supplement the skills available within the United Nations system and, where necessary, to assist in the recruitment of experts at the global level, including those belonging to developing countries;

[(j) To initiate public information activities on adequate shelter for all and human settlements development in cooperation with the Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat;

[(k) To promote increased use of audio-visual and information technology relating to adequate shelter and human settlements development;

[(l) To carry out any other mandate, responsibilities and functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

[172. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the secretariats of the regional commissions, as well as the principal financial and technical institutions and all other partners at the regional and global levels, should consolidate and expand cooperation and coordination in the fields of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.

[173. Within their mandates, other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development and Commission on Social Development, should give due regard to human settlements issues, as set out in the Global Plan of Action.

[174. To promote implementation of the Global Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels, the regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, could convene, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcomes, exchange views on respective experiences and adopt the appropriate measures. The regional commissions should report to the Economic and Social Council through the appropriate mechanisms on the outcome of such meetings.

[175. The Secretary-General is invited to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and adequate consideration of human settlements needs in all activities of the United Nations. The Administrative Committee on Coordination should review its procedures at the inter-agency level to ensure system-wide coordination and full participation of its entities in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. These entities should examine their programmes to determine how they can best contribute to the coordinated implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Committee should be invited to establish a task force on the Habitat Agenda. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) should be added to the membership of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and to the task force on the Habitat Agenda.

[176. The Secretary-General is invited to continue to ensure effective functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). In conjunction with the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, the functions of the Centre should be assessed by the Economic and Social Council.

[177. The important role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring those aspects of the Statement of Principals and Commitment on Global Plan of Action that relate to compliance by States parties with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should be emphasized.

[178. To strengthen their support for actions at the national level and to enhance their contributions to an integrated and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should identify the specific actions they will undertake to meet the priorities identified in the Global Plan of Action.

[179. In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations organizations in providing support to the efforts for the provision of adequate

shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development at the national level, and to enhance their capacity to achieve the objectives of Habitat II, there is a need to renew, reform and revitalize the various parts of the United Nations system, in particular its operational activities. All specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system are invited to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to Habitat II. The governing bodies of the following organizations should review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities in this regard:

[(a) The United Nations Development Programme should enhance its efforts to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through its network of field offices;

[(b) The International Labour Organization should coordinate and support concrete actions at the policy and programme levels for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda with regard to the expansion and protection of employment and work;

[(c) The United Nations Children's Fund should consider integrating its Urban Basic Service Programmes, the Mayors Defenders of Children Initiative, and the Decentralization of the UNICEF National Plans of Action with the Habitat Agenda through broad partnerships for sustainable community development and community management;

[(d) The United Nations Conference on the Trade and Development should contribute to the analysis and monitoring of major trends of urbanization and impact of urban and rural policies in connection with changes in the global economic environment;

[(e) The United Nations Environment Programme should develop and promote policies to enhance the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into human settlements development and adequate shelter for all and catalyze action to achieve these goals at the international, regional, subregional, and national levels;

[(f) The United Nations Population Fund, in coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities, should pursue activities related to basic social services for all;

[(g) The United Nations Industrial Development Organization in implementing the Habitat Agenda should address areas that require the competitiveness of export-oriented enterprises and competitive local and national enterprise growth;

[(h) The World Health Organization should be guided in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the global importance of health issues, the linkage of those issues to sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter, the close relationship between public health and basic urban and rural services, and the need to place human beings at the centre of development.

[180. International financial institutions should contribute to the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. To this end, the relevant institutions are urged to take the following measures:

[(a) The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional and subregional development banks and funds, and all other international finance organizations should further integrate adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development goals in their policies, programmes and operations, including by such means as giving higher priority to these goals, where applicable, in their lending programmes;

[(b) The Bretton Woods institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should work together with concerned countries, particularly developing countries, to improve policy dialogues and develop new initiatives to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote sustained economic growth, with particular attention being given to the necessity to provide adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development to people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups;

[(c) The United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations specialized agencies, should expand and improve their cooperation in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development to ensure that the efforts are complementary and, where possible, should combine resources in joint initiatives for adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlement development build around the objectives of Habitat II;

[(d) The World Trade Organization should consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system.

5. Indicators, best practices and performance evaluation

[181. It is essential to evaluate the impact of policies, strategies and actions on the provision of adequate shelter and the achievement of sustainable human settlements development. The results of these evaluations will be considered by the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Commission on Human Settlements. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), together with other relevant organizations, will establish an appropriate process for analysing and monitoring major trends of urbanization and the impact of urban policies. In particular, information on the impact of urbanization on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including children, should be collected.

[182. All partners of the Habitat Agenda, including local authorities, the private sector and communities, will regularly monitor and evaluate their own performances in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through comparable human settlements and shelter indicators and documented best practices, the guidelines for which will be provided by the Centre (Habitat). The data collection and analysis capabilities of all these partners will be strengthened and assisted at national, subregional and global levels.

[183. As part of their commitment to strengthening their existing shelter- and settlements-related data collection and analysis capabilities, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should continue to identify and disseminate best practices, and should develop and apply shelter and human settlements development indicators. This and other relevant information, as appropriate, will be used for assessing the national implementation of the global plan of action. Such information could be considered within the framework of an appropriate consolidated reporting system of the United Nations, taking into account the different reporting procedures in the economic, social and environmental fields.

[184. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will be designated as the Global Habitat Observatory to promote, monitor and evaluate the trends and progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through locally, nationally and regionally supported indicators and best practices programmes. It should continue to produce and publish the Global State of Human Settlements Report and other periodical monitoring and evaluation publications to track the progress on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.]